Chief Minister indicating that a commitment of 0.4 MMCMD of gas had already been made to APSEB. It was also indicated that the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh would be taken into consideration while finalising the future gas utilisation plans in the K.G. Basin.

**Production of PTA by M/s. Reliance Industries Limited**

1426. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Reliance Industries have obtained a licence for the manufacture of PTA, a raw material used in polyester industry;

(b) how many other concerns have been permitted to manufacture PTA;

(c) what norms are applied for regulating the prices of PTA;

(d) whether it is a fact that M/s. Reliance Industries have recently increased the price of PTA; and

(e) if so, whether this has been done with the permission of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) and (b) An Industrial licence has been granted to M/s. Reliance Industries Limited on 31-12-1985 for the manufacture of 1,00,000 TPA of Purified Terepthalic Acid. At present, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited is the only producer of PTA in the country. Letters of intent have already been granted to M|s. Madras Refineries Limited (a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas) and M/s. JK Synthetics Limited for manufacture of 1,50,000 TPA of Purified Terepthalic Acid each at Manali, Madras, in the State of Tamil Nadu and at Salempur in District Aligarh, in tht State of Uttar Pradesh respectively.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no statutory price control over Purified Terepthalic Acid.

The present selling price of PTA by M/s. RIL is Rs. 37,150/tonne (ex-factory). Since there is no statutory price control, the question of permission of Government does not arise.

**Oil exploration work in the off-shore areas**

1427. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has suggested to the Shipping Corporation of India to start a joint venture to combine the expertise of the two organisations to intensify oil exploration work in the off-shore areas; and

(b) whether any details of the joint venture have been worked out and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) In order to shed low and medium techuological areas and to concentrate on their main line of business, ONGC have a proposal to divest their fleet of offshore supply vessels, partly by sale and partly by forming a joint venture company with Shipping Corporation of India for managing|operation of these vessels. No final decision has been taken so far.

**Price control on sex harmone drugs**

1428. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kelkar Committee recommended all sex harmone